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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. On 18 December 1992, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/148 by which, inter alia, it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (A/47/453 and Add.1) and of his efforts to strengthen that cooperation. It commended the continued efforts of OAU to promote multilateral cooperation and economic integration among African States and requested United Nations organizations to continue to support those efforts; requested the United Nations to continue to support OAU in its efforts to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts and peacefully to manage change in Africa; urged the United Nations to provide cooperation and assistance, as appropriate, to OAU should the latter decide to launch a peace-keeping operation; urged all Member States and regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide the necessary and appropriate economic, financial and technical assistance to refugees, as well as to African countries of asylum; reaffirmed that the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s 1/ would necessitate the full participation of the international community, and emphasized the urgency of the need to adopt appropriate measures to ensure its implementation in accordance with General Assembly decisions; called upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to work in close coordination and cooperation with the Secretary-General of OAU, in particular on follow-up to and review and evaluation of the implementation of the New Agenda; called upon the Secretary-General to adopt appropriate measures, in consultation with the international organizations and financial institutions concerned, as well as with donor countries, to assist in the mobilization of the resources needed to support the efforts of the African States to implement, at the national and regional levels, Agenda 21, and other relevant decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; 2/ urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to extend their support and cooperation to the member States and the Secretary-General of OAU for the effective organizational arrangement and smooth functioning of the African Economic Community; also urged all Member States and regional and international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide support as appropriate to the establishment of the African Economic Community, and to assist in economic integration and cooperation in Africa, in particular by providing financial and technical assistance to African regional and subregional organizations, as well as to African organizations for drought and desertification control; endorsed the agreement reached between the organizations of the United Nations system and OAU on the convening of a meeting between the secretariats of those organizations, to be held in 1993, to review and evaluate the progress made in implementing the proposals and recommendations agreed upon in April 1991 and 1992 on cooperation between them in 1992-1993 and to adopt new and effective joint action; requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to support the efforts of the Secretary-General of OAU with a view to holding sectoral meetings in certain important areas of cooperation as a matter of priority, particularly the establishment of the African Economic Community and the strengthening of the African regional and subregional organizations; and requested the United Nations and OAU to ensure that the representatives of their

secretariats continue to hold regular close consultations, particularly on the follow-up to the present resolution.

I. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

2. On 30 September 1992, Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and then Chairman of OAU, addressed the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. In his address, President Douf reviewed political, economic and social developments in Africa. He discussed Africa's efforts to resolve conflicts in Africa, including Liberia, Rwanda, Somalia and South Africa. He stressed Africa's efforts at economic integration of the continent and its work for the improvement of the international economic system in order to make it more responsive to third world concerns.

II. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

3. During the period under review, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat kept OAU informed of assistance provided to its member States in the field of disaster relief, disaster prevention and training.

4. Relief assistance was provided to Egypt, Mauritania, the Sudan, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the countries of the Horn of Africa and of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Disaster preparedness and prevention activities were undertaken in Algeria, Egypt and the Sudan. In addition, disaster mitigation projects in Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi and Zimbabwe have been updated.

5. A regional workshop on disaster management in southern Africa was organized in Zimbabwe in September 1992. Two national workshops were also organized, in Kenya and in the Sudan respectively. These workshops were implemented under the Disaster Management Training Programme with the participation of representatives from United Nations agencies, OAU and interested non-governmental organizations. Government representatives from the departments and institutions concerned also participated in these workshops. The main objectives were to build awareness of the countries' vulnerability to different types of disasters; increase the linkage of disasters with development; and, increase knowledge and skills appropriate to lessening the problem of disasters affecting each country. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs cooperated with OAU in assisting the Centre Panafricaine des Perspectives Sociales in the Colloquium on the African Humanitarian Perspectives, held at Ougadougou in March 1993.

B. Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat

6. During the period under review, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat continued to carry out information activities on subjects of joint concern to the United Nations and OAU, such as apartheid, decolonization and

some specific problem areas in particular, and African political and economic issues in general. The Department launched an extensive multi-media approach to the publicity of developments in Africa, including those relating to OAU activities, including the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. 1/ The Department also reported on statements by OAU representatives in the General Assembly and the Security Council, as well as press briefings by leaders of the Group of African States at the United Nations, OAU and representatives of the South African liberation movements.

7. The Department continued to provide extensive press coverage of United Nations activities related to African political and economic issues, including the annual consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session of its agenda item on cooperation between the United Nations and OAU. United Nations meetings of direct concern to OAU, including those on apartheid, the African economic crisis, refugee matters and multi-party elections in Africa were reflected on a continuous basis in the press releases and radio news feeds of the News Coverage Service.

8. The UN Chronicle, a quarterly magazine, continued to provide coverage of developments relating to questions such as apartheid and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990. 3/ The weekly television magazine, U.N. in Action, covered different topics on Africa. The Department's Photo Unit continued to provide in-house photo coverage, library accessions and dissemination of photographs and posters in areas of interest to OAU. On 21 June 1992, the Department, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), opened an exhibit of the Day of the African Child. The United Nations Radio Service continued to provide comprehensive coverage of programmes on specific issues of interest to the United Nations and OAU. A number of weekly briefings by the Department for non-governmental organizations addressed issues relating directly to Africa.

9. United Nations information centres and services extended all possible cooperation to OAU offices and representatives in countries they serve. Cooperation included assistance in organizing lectures, encounters, seminars and conferences, and provision of relevant United Nations documents and other information materials. Much of the information provided by centres to non-governmental organizations, the public, and media and government officials was related to the work of the United Nations system in connection with African concerns. Newsletters produced by the information centres carried important articles on United Nations involvement in Africa.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

10. Cooperation between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and OAU has been further strengthened over the past year by the International Conference on Assistance to African Children (ICAAC). The OAU-sponsored ICAAC, which was held at Dakar from 25 to 27 November 1992, was attended by virtually all African States, as well as donor nations, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and national committees for UNICEF. The Conference adopted "The Consensus of Dakar", a landmark document which enumerates six intermediate goals to be achieved by 1995:

(a) Raising Africa's average immunization coverage from the level of 60 per cent achieved for the Universal Child Immunization effort to 80 per cent against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis;

(b) Ensuring 90 per cent immunization coverage against measles, by far the most lethal of the vaccine-preventable diseases, and against tetanus toxoid for women of child-bearing age;

(c) Achieving 80 per cent usage of oral rehydration therapy in order to prevent dehydration caused by diarrhoea;

(d) Virtually eliminating iodine deficiency disorders;

(e) Virtually eliminating vitamin A deficiency and its consequences;

(f) Encouraging exclusive breastfeeding for four to six months and sustaining breastfeeding for up to two years of age and beyond, with complementary foods beginning at four to six months.

11. Country programmes are the core of UNICEF activity and by mandate of its Executive Board, the Agency continues to regard Africa as the region which should be given highest priority. During the year under review, UNICEF increased emergency programmes on the continent, especially in the Horn of Africa, southern Africa and Liberia. Several actions were taken in 1992 to strengthen the capacity of UNICEF on the continent, including providing support to national efforts to expand immunization campaigns and to prepare long-term national programmes of action for children.

12. Out of 84 countries in the world that, as at 20 April 1993, are reported to have their national programmes of action finalized, 32 are member States of OAU. Only nine member States still have to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

13. In commemoration of the second annual observance on 16 June of the Day of the African Child, many countries in Africa, with assistance from UNICEF, hosted a variety of special educational and cultural activities and sporting events. This year, the Day of the African Child offered an opportunity for linking advocacy activities with a review of progress made in achieving the intermediate goals for children enumerated in "The Consensus of Dakar", as well as with implementation of national programmes of action, ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

14. During the period under review, cooperation between the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and OAU was developed further. Notably, UNCTAD continued to be involved in efforts by OAU to establish the African Economic Community. UNCTAD participated in the meetings of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee devoted to the examination, improvement and drafting of the first batch of protocols as a matter of priority to be attached to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (A/46/651, annex).

15. UNCTAD also participated in the sixth All-Africa Trade Fair, organized by OAU at Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, from 2 to 10 September 1992, at which it maintained a documentation stand, organized a workshop on its activities and held discussions with representatives of various African countries on the topic of trade expansion among African countries.

16. In the area of trade, in response to the OAU Council of Ministers resolution on the Uruguay Round for multilateral trade negotiations (CM/Res.1350 (LIV)), which was adopted at its fifty-fourth ordinary session (see A/46/390, annex I), and endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its twenty-seventh ordinary session (see A/46/390, annex II), the UNCTAD secretariat, with the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and within the framework of its African multilateral trade negotiations project (RAF/87/157), continued to extend technical assistance to African participants in the Uruguay Round trade negotiations. This assistance was mainly extended to Geneva-based delegations in their participation in the concluding phase of the Round. Continued technical assistance by the UNCTAD secretariat in the crucial final phase of the negotiations is subject to further UNDP financial support which, for the time being, has been withdrawn.

17. In keeping with the OAU objective of strengthening the negotiating capacity of African countries in new and complex areas of multilateral negotiations, the UNCTAD secretariat, with the financial support of Governments and public and private foundations, has launched coordinated national studies on services in 10 African countries. The objective of these studies is to serve the critical needs of multilateral negotiations on trade in services and also to provide a reliable basis for domestic policy formulation aimed at enhancing the contribution of this sector to the development process.

18. In the area of technology transfer and development, the UNCTAD secretariat maintained regular contacts with regional and subregional organizations, providing assistance in joint project formulation, and continued to provide technical cooperation services to African countries in the light of the priorities identified by OAU. Within the framework of a national project in Burundi, funded by UNDP and the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development, a seminar on the strengthening of national technological capacity and a workshop dealing with the legal aspects of the application and commercialization of research and development results were organized. Also, the UNCTAD secretariat assisted Senegal in the formulation of a project on strengthening the technological acquisition and innovation capacity to enhance competitiveness.

E. United Nations Development Programme

19. In April 1975, OAU signed a "Cooperation Agreement" with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In 1982, the Agreement was amended and UNDP, under the Third Regional Programming Cycle, provided support to OAU, in particular in its work for regional integration and intermediation that arose out of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, adopted by the Heads of State and Government in 1980. 4/ There was also support for strengthening of the General

Secretariat and for energy initiatives. During this period, UNDP established a coordination office at Addis Ababa to follow up on the Cooperation Agreement.

20. During the Fourth Cycle, with regional programme funding of approximately US$ 8 million, the coordination office was expanded and upgraded to UNDP representation to OAU and Liaison Office with ECA. Essentially, support was targeted at the management capacity of OAU and preparation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, as well as at the environment and activities relating to Women in Development (WID).

21. To date, Fifth Cycle funding (1992-1996) provides US$ 6 million for a continuation of capacity-building at OAU, with a view to enabling it to carry out the mandate from the African Heads of State for the establishment and full operation of the African Economic Community by the year 2025. Specifically, programmes in this cycle aim at strengthening the General Secretariat through training and technical assistance and providing equipment and consultancies for the upgrading of OAU information systems, as well as expanding WID programmes.

F. United Nations Environment Programme

22. The framework for cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and OAU was consolidated in 1991 with the signing of a "Memorandum of Cooperation Agreement". It is supported by a project through which UNEP is currently providing institutional support to the Environment Section of OAU, aimed at strengthening its environmental management capacity.

23. During the period under review, the two organizations continued to provide secretariat services for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). Under this arrangement, OAU and UNEP are making a significant contribution towards collective endeavours to address the environmental and socio-economic crisis in the region. The collaborative efforts which are being undertaken through a variety of programmes are aimed at reversing and halting the degradation of the African environment. African institutions are being supported to undertake networking activities in major natural resources subject areas, ranging from environmental monitoring, energy, water resources, biodiversity, education and training, science and technology, climatology and soils and fertilizers. Subregional cooperation on transboundary resources and ecosystems (common to several countries), such as deserts and arid lands, forests and woodlands, seas, river and lake basins and island ecosystems, is being enhanced through joint OAU/UNEP actions within the framework of AMCEN and in cooperation with African organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Economic Community of West African States and SADC. To this effect, the two organizations are supporting the work of five ecosystem committees.

24. The two organizations are also cooperating closely within the framework of the activities and programmes of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, notably its Protocol on the Environment (A/46/651, annex).

25. OAU and UNEP are members of the joint Secretariat on Africa of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, an inter-agency collaborative

arrangement which was instrumental in the preparation of the "African Common Position on Environment and Development". At present the two organizations, together with the above-mentioned partners, are assisting African countries in the formulation of strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21 and other related decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. 2/

26. The two organizations, through the existing Cooperation Agreement, continue to assist OAU member States in the field of environmental management, and efforts under way relate to, inter alia, global agreements on the environment, such as the Basel and Bamako Conventions; regional seas programmes, four of which are under implementation in the region; environmentally sound management of inland waters, such as the Zambezi River Basin Integrated Management Plan; desertification control programmes, such as that of the Sudan-Sahelian region; environmental monitoring, through which assistance is being provided to subregional facilities and institutions such as SADC; capacity-building; strengthening of environmental legislation and institutions; and environmental education and training.

G. United Nations Population Fund

27. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has for a long period of time cooperated with OAU with a view to assisting it in the promotion and coordination of population and development planning of its member States. This cooperation was started on the basis of a number of resolutions, including the resolution adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers in 1987 on population and development planning. That resolution authorized the Secretary-General of OAU to seek financial and technical assistance from international organizations in order to assist member States in establishing national population commissions and technical cooperation relations with African regional and subregional organizations dealing with population and development problems.

28. OAU has formulated a number of strategies to implement its Population and Development Programme, based on several international instruments, the most recent of which is the 1992 UNFPA and OAU Cooperation Agreement. The Agreement, which was signed on 5 October 1992, called upon UNFPA to provide financial and technical support to efforts by OAU to promote the integration of population and development in member States. OAU, in turn, would provide political support for UNFPA programmes in African countries. The Agreement also called for strengthened consultation and an increase in the exchange of information between the two organizations.

29. During the reporting period, OAU, with funding from UNFPA, continued to implement activities under the project entitled "OAU Population and Development Policy Programme", the overall objective of which was to promote the adoption and implementation of population policies among OAU member States within the broader framework of social and economic development. Activities recently implemented or planned included the establishment in 1992 of a Population and Development Unit in the Research and Planning Division of OAU; and, with the approval of the OAU Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, of an OAU Population Commission would hold its inaugural meeting in August 1993. OAU staff would also be trained in population and development.

30. In 1992, UNFPA, OAU and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organized jointly the Third African Population Conference on Population, Family and Sustainable Development, which was held at Dakar in December 1992. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Union for African Population Studies were collaborating organizations. One of the major achievements of the Conference was the commitment by African countries to address population problems and to formulate and implement comprehensive population policies.

31. On 8 April 1993, at the initiative of OAU, an inter-secretariat meeting (comprised of representatives of OAU, ECA, AfDB and UNFPA) on Population and Development Policy in Africa was held at OAU headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the roles of the respective organizations in population and development in Africa; to ensure that those roles were complementary and mutually reinforcing; to discuss areas of potential joint undertaking; and to exchange views on forthcoming meetings involving population and development issues. Along these same lines, it is to be noted that meetings of UNFPA and OAU representatives at Addis Ababa are usually held at regular intervals, at a minimum of once per month.

H. World Food Programme

32. During 1992, the World Food Programme (WFP) continued to accord high priority to OAU member States. The Programme approved projects worth more than US$ 1.2 billion in support of humanitarian and development activities in these countries.

33. The highest priority was again given to sub-Saharan African countries which received nearly 60 per cent of total WFP assistance during the year. Much of this was channelled towards helping the victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts. Humanitarian assistance provided by WFP to OAU member States exceeded US$ 1 billion during 1992, almost twice as much as in 1991. The sum of US$ 502 million was provided to areas stricken by drought or crop failure, out of which the amount of US$ 150 million was provided to the victims of drought in southern Africa. Resources amounting to US$ 354 million were provided to assist displaced persons, while the refugee projects accounted for US$ 149 million.

34. In addition to the high level of relief activities which the Programme was called upon to support in Africa in 1992, WFP continued to maintain or increase its development assistance to the region. This assistance was channelled to those sectors which should be accorded priority as identified by OAU. Assistance to human resources development totalled US$ 97 million, including school feeding at the primary and secondary levels, and at technical and vocational training centres, as well as institutional feeding. Increased attention continued to be given to mitigate the negative effects of structural adjustment on the very poor. In addition, projects with a total value of US$ 66 million were approved in support of rural development activities throughout Africa.

35. In addition to the above, WFP supported OAU member States through:

(a) The purchase of food commodities worth US$ 46 million in the region, thus contributing to the development of intra-African trade;

(b) The provision of various non-food items, including trucks, warehouses and kitchen equipment, in order to ensure efficient implementation of WFP assisted projects;

(c) The provision of additional resources to least developed countries to reduce the burden of project implementation by meeting part of the costs of internal transport, storage and handling of WFP-supplied commodities;

(d) The training of over 1,000 counterpart staff from the region in various fields, such as project identification and implementation, monitoring, reporting, and food storage;

(e) The committal of some US$ 3 million in additional funds in 1992 for the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building in order to improv the quality of the projects in least developed countries in Africa.

I. Economic Commission for Africa

36. Since its last report, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has concentrated its cooperative arrangements with OAU on the implementation of th Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (A/46/651, annex). All activities carried out by ECA took place within the framework of the OAU/ECA/AfDB Joint Secretariat.

37. The Joint Secretariat serviced two meetings of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee at the expert level, and one meeting at the ministerial level. Thes meetings considered five draft protocols to be annexed to the Treaty. In addition, it pursued the preparation of the other protocols whose list had bee determined by OAU policy organs.

38. In order to make this cooperation more effective, ECA prepared a plan for the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, which will be further considered by OAU, ECA and AfDB with a view to arriving a a coordination scheme that would eliminate duplication of activities among the three organizations.

39. With regard to sectoral activities, the secretariats of OAU and ECA organized jointly the African Conference on Population, which was held in December 1992 at Dakar, and the Third Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, held in March 1993 at Tunis.

40. Finally, steps are being taken towards rationalizing the activities of institutions sponsored jointly by ECA and OAU.

J. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

41. During the past year, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) continued to give high priority to assistance to OAU member States, at both regional and country levels, in the field of human settlements.

42. In order to ensure stronger cooperation with OAU and in compliance with General Assembly resolution 47/148, the Centre has developed a "Strategy for Cooperation between UNCHS (Habitat) and OAU", that will make the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations fully operational. The Strategy, currently under consideration by OAU, calls in particular for: (a) the establishment of a human settlements unit and library within OAU, to be instituted through a technical assistance project that the Centre has already approved; (b) the signature of a memorandum of understanding with the Programme of Action of AMCEN; (c) a tripartite agreement with OAU and AMCEN to contribute to the solution of problems related to refugee and returnee settlements; (d) provision of technical assistance towards the establishment of an African multidisciplinary centre on disasters; and (e) preparation of a dossier of collaborative project proposals for consideration by international donors, with particular emphasis on support programmes for shelter strategy formulation and capacity-building in technical and financial management of African cities.

43. In November 1992, UNCHS (Habitat) joined other United Nations agencies, countries and international organizations at the International Conference on Assistance for African Children, organized by OAU in collaboration with UNICEF. On that occasion, the Centre reiterated its commitment towards the objective of meeting the basic shelter needs of the poor and improving the coverage and efficiency of infrastructural services in African countries.

K. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

44. The agreement concluded by OAU and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on 13 June 1969 continues to serve as the principal framework for cooperation between the two organizations. The OAU Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Political Affairs proposed in March 1993 that the Cooperation Agreement should be reviewed in order to adjust some of its provisions to meet the new challenges posed by refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the 1990s and beyond. This review began during the fifty-eighth ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers, which was held at Cairo, from 21 to 26 June 1993.

45. The efforts of OAU in the field of conflict prevention, management and settlement in Africa coincided with the High Commissioner's sustained actions to support UNHCR humanitarian relief activities in several African countries. The twenty-second ordinary session of the OAU Coordinating Committee on Assistance to Refugees (CCAR) met under the chairmanship of the UNHCR Regional Liaison Representative for Africa at Windhoek, from 13 to 16 April 1992. The meeting mainly centred on the issues of conflicts, human rights abuses and asylum-seekers in Africa. On the basis of the discussions, the Chairman urged OAU to complement the efforts of UNHCR to provide more assistance to refugees in the areas of education and employment.

46. The High Commissioner maintains regular contact with the Secretary-General of OAU and with the OAU Commission of Fifteen on Refugees on the political situation in southern Africa (Angola, Mozambique and South Africa), particularly in relation to the search for a solution to the conflicts prevailing in the region, their serious implications for peace and security and the risk of new refugee flows.

47. In compliance with the recommendations of the OAU Council of Ministers at its fifty-sixth ordinary session, held at Dakar in June 1992, on the escalation of the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons in southern Africa, the Secretary-General of OAU dispatched an OAU mission in April/May 1993 to Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Throughout the mission's work in the region, UNHCR representatives in the countries concerned extended full advisory, technical and logistical support and assistance.

48. UNHCR was represented at the International Conference on Assistance to African Children, which was held from 25 to 27 November 1992 at Dakar, and at which it presented a paper on "Refugee Children in Africa: some of the Problems and some of the Solutions".

49. The High Commissioner continued to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of refugees or internally displaced persons in southern Africa. In the Horn of Africa, the initiatives of OAU in spearheading efforts for political reconciliation and an end to conflict in the region addressed the concern of UNHCR for the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance to all needy populations and the voluntary repatriation of refugees, including their reintegration in areas of origin.

50. Cooperation between UNHCR and OAU to promote and enhance the protection of refugees in accordance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol of 1967, and the 1969 OAU Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa continued during the period under review. There is a need for an intensification of dialogue on how to extend and improve the legal and physical protection of refugees with particular attention to refugee women and children. While traditional African generosity to asylum-seekers and refugees is exemplary, it merits further institutional support which can be jointly developed and maintained by OAU and UNHCR. In this connection, both UNHCR and OAU have been working together to develop a framework for model national refugee legislation at the request of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

51. The magnitude and complexity of emergencies arising from the displacement of populations both inside and outside national borders remains one of the most critical issues on the political, social and economic agenda of Africa. Managing or preventing and, where feasible, resolving such emergencies has proved to be particularly challenging to OAU, Governments and humanitarian agencies. Within this context, OAU has an important role to play in persuading Governments and other concerned parties in conflict zones to obtain access to victims in areas of conflict, and to improve security conditions for relief workers in order to ensure the safe and rapid delivery of humanitarian assistance. Thus, the success of the UNHCR emergency response and care and maintenance operations partly depends on the development and acceptance of "codes of conduct", the strengthening of procedures for cooperation in respect

of the creation of corridors of tranquillity for the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance to victims of conflict, as well as the availability of adequate resources.

52. UNHCR is aware and appreciative of the efforts by the OAU secretariat and the Commission of Fifteen on Refugees to consult and appeal to more OAU member States to share the burden of extending asylum to refugees in Africa. More accessions to the 1969 OAU Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems would provide the legal framework for traditional African hospitality to asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR gives priority to Africa and, in 1993, the Office will devote 35 per cent of its resources to programmes in Africa, which hosts 30 per cent of world refugees.

53. In 1992, UNHCR had hoped to repatriate over one million refugees (excluding Mozambicans) in Africa. Owing, however, to various political, security, financial and logistical difficulties, this objective was not fully attained. Apart from resources for the logistics of the operation, specific legal and developmental requirements need to be addressed. The conclusions and recommendations of the fifty-fifth session of the Council of Ministers, which was held at Cairo in February 1993 on refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and the issues raised by the UNHCR delegation need to be followed up. During the meeting with the High Commissioner in October 1992, the Chairman of the OAU Commission of Fifteen on Refugees emphasized the urgency of collective initiatives in Africa for conflict resolution, and promised to continue efforts to resolve the political side of refugee problems. He suggested that, within the framework of OAU, opportunities existed for cooperation with African Governments and their military establishments on the important issue of mine clearance, to allow voluntary repatriation to take place under conditions of safety and dignity.

54. Current programmes on education, vocational training and income-generating activities, which are being undertaken by the OAU Refugee Bureau, supplement and complement similar projects and activities which are being implemented by UNHCR and its implementing partners. There are other programmes, such as resettlement of African refugees within the continent and reunification of refugees with their kin which OAU, UNHCR and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations could collectively undertake. Useful initiatives in inter-agency cooperation have been started and need to be pursued further.

55. In keeping with the provisions of the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of Burundi, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania on 19 February 1991, both UNHCR and OAU were entrusted with the responsibility of drawing up a Plan of Action for durable solutions for Rwandese refugees. UNHCR and OAU have continued to work closely with the concerned Governments and UNDP on this matter.

56. UNHCR looks forward to greater innovation and concerted action in order to enhance efforts to achieve durable solutions to certain long-standing refugee situations in Africa, promote respect for human rights and bridge the gap between humanitarian relief assistance for refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and wider development efforts in Africa. UNHCR will, in turn, continue to play a promotional and catalytic role in mobilizing resources and

developing forward-looking strategies in cooperation with OAU and other relevant parties.

L. International Labour Organisation

57. Cooperation between the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and OAU continued to expand during the period under review. As in the past, collaboration between the two organizations included significantly reciprocal participation in policy-making and technical meetings and conferences. An ILO delegation led by the Director-General participated in the Ministerial Meeting of the OAU Labour Commission. ILO also participated in the OAU Permanent Steering Committee, as well as its advisory committee meetings, regional conferences and meetings concerning, inter alia, popular participation, the African employment crisis, social security and refugees, returnees and displaced persons. ILO also participated in the work of the OAU Coordinating Committee on Refugees, which took place at Windhoek. There were regular consultative meetings with OAU as provided for in the basic Agreement of 1965 governing the relations between ILO and OAU.

58. ILO continued to provide technical advisory service to a number of OAU-sponsored regional and subregional institutions concerned with vocational rehabilitation and training, occupational safety and health, and migration and social security. Collaboration also continued with OAU on initiatives pertaining to Africa's economic recovery and long-term development.

M. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

59. Cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and OAU reached a level of intensity which prompted the seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in July 1992, to call upon the two organizations to revise and update their existing Cooperation Agreement. FAO responded to these developments by initiating the relevant studies in preparation for appropriate proposals.

60. At the working level, cooperation between FAO and OAU was manifested in the joint laying of the foundation for an inter-agency consultation on the Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP), a development agency of the African Economic Community (AEC), which is itself a product of collaboration between FAO and OAU. Other recent FAO/OAU cooperative activities have embraced, inter alia, preparations for an African decade for food and nutrition; the activities of the African Regional Task Force on Food and Nutrition, of which OAU and FAO are leading members; the control of trypanosomiasis and rinderpest; and food security.

61. A feature of these cooperative activities by FAO and OAU was that they functioned as umbrellas for FAO cooperation with other African intergovernmental organizations, as well as with OAU member States. Thus, for example, cooperation between FAO and OAU on the development of CAAP paved the way for FAO cooperation with the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern Africa on the formulation of the Common Agricultural Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa. Similarly, cooperation between FAO and OAU on food security

was interlinked with subregional cooperative activities of the PTA for Eastern and Southern Africa and SADC.

62. Another interesting element in recent cooperation between FAO and OAU is the way it has assisted both organizations to focus more sharply, and achieve consensus, on the main concerns of the region. Joint and separate FAO and OAU activities in sustainable agricultural development, rural development and poverty alleviation, regional integration, women in development and disaster management are among the beneficiaries of this trend.

N. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

63. Following the tripartite meeting of OAU, ECA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the third session of the joint OAU/UNESCO Cooperation Committee was held at Addis Ababa in October 1992. The two organizations renewed their determination to unite their efforts in fostering Africa's development. The Committee particularly welcomed the similarity of approach regarding the importance to be attached to programmes on dispute prevention and democratic transition.

64. After reviewing the various recommendations adopted in Paris and taking stock of the activities conducted since the second session of the joint Committee, OAU and UNESCO singled out the following as items to be given priority in the implementation of joint projects in 1993-1994: the role of African universities in development; the establishment of an African institute for adult literacy and continuing education; the organization of an OAU ministerial conference on culture, education and development; the listing of African scholars and scientists outside Africa with a view to seeking their assistance in Africa's development efforts; the preparation of five protocols to be annexed to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community; a study of the African common position in the follow-up to Agenda 21, 2/ on the environment and sustainable development; and assistance to refugees and displaced persons, liberation movements and the democratization process.

65. Within the context of efforts by UNESCO to find a global solution to the problem of African students who are in difficulties in the east and central European countries, the Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of OAU have issued a joint appeal to the Governments of all States, as well as to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, public and private agencies and financing institutions in particular, and to the international community in general, urging them to provide assistance through voluntary contributions in the form of funds or services so that the students can meet their immediate needs and complete their studies or, if appropriate, return to their countries of origin.

66. With regard to its African programme, which is a priority, UNESCO has organized two Pan-African seminars in which OAU participated actively. The first was the Seminar on the Development of Higher Education in Africa, which held three successive sessions at Accra, Dakar and Alexandria, Egypt. The second seminar, organized at Ouagadougou, focused on the question of educating girls in Africa.

67. UNESCO provided OAU with the amount of $40,000 for the participation programme for 1992-1993.

O. International Civil Aviation Organization

68. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has followed the policy of African economic integration laid down by OAU when providing assistance to African civil aviation and airport authorities in upgrading their efficiency, financing required equipment and maintaining a high level of competence among their staff.

69. At the request of OAU, ICAO is implementing 33 country-level and regional projects throughout the African continent, a reduction of more than 50 per cent as a result of the disengagement of multilateral funding sources in Africa. UNDP, which used to provide 80 per cent of the funds for these projects, has reduced its contribution drastically. The remaining 20 per cent used to be funded by cost sharing, trust funds and such sources as the AfDB or, in a few cases, the World Bank.

70. ICAO continues to support the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and has participated in high-level meetings to review implementation of the Programme. ICAO also continues to play a very active role in the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (1991-2000), contributing to the work of the Resources Mobilization Committee which has prepared the list of projects for the Decade.

71. OAU continues to be invited to ICAO meetings within its sphere of interest, including the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly of ICAO, held at Montreal, Canada, from 22 September to 8 October 1992. ICAO was represented at the annual Assembly of the AfDB Group in May 1993.

72. ICAO continues to maintain a close and continuous working relationship with the African Civil Aviation Commission and provides the Commission with expert advice and secretariat assistance upon request. Documents and studies of interest to the African region are provided to OAU on a regular basis in order to allow it to maintain basic documentation on civil aviation matters.

73. ICAO also works in close cooperation with subregional organizations in Africa on development of international civil aviation, notably with SADC, the PTA for Eastern and Southern African States and the Economic Communities for Central African and Western African States.

P. World Health Organization

74. During the period under review, the World Health Organization (WHO), through its office for OAU and ECA at Addis Ababa, continued to collaborate with OAU on the initiative summarized in the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/47/453 and Add.1) and on new opportunities to provide support to countries of the African continent. The groundwork was laid in May 1992 by the Secretary-General of OAU who delivered an introductory address to the forty-fifth World Health Assembly on the subject of "Global Solidarity for Health".

75. Following the adoption by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU Declaration on the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic in Africa (see A/47/558, annex II, AHG/Decl.1 (XXVIII), WHO, in collaboration with OAU, began to work out guidelines for adoption and action by member States. In a related development, WHO co-sponsored with OAU and other organizations a symposium on "Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS and Development in Africa" on 11 May 1993. Organized by AfDB, the Symposium was chaired by the President of Benin.

76. In accordance with the World Declaration for the Control of Malaria signed at Amsterdam in October 1992, WHO in close collaboration with OAU has been working with member States to provide guidance and support on the implementation of this Declaration.

77. As a follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition, which was held in Rome in December 1992, WHO and OAU prepared a document entitled "African Regional Nutrition Strategy (1999-2003)" for adoption and implementation by member States.

78. The WHO Pan-African Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response at Addis Ababa has continued to coordinate its activities with OAU and to provide technical support to African countries.

Q. World Bank/International Finance Corporation

79. The World Bank does not have a formal affiliation with OAU but deals independently instead with its member States.

80. Although the Bank does not work directly with OAU, it endorses many of the same long-term development objectives and follows closely the organization's views and activities. In order to facilitate closer cooperation between the Bank and OAU, particularly on economic issues, the Bank appointed a regional liaison officer at Addis Ababa.

R. International Monetary Fund

81. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) continued to cooperate with OAU through its member States that are also Fund members, and at the United Nations through contacts between the Director of the Fund's Office at the United Nations who is also the representative of the Fund at the United Nations and the OAU Steering Committee in relation to Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 (A/40/666, annex I, declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXI). The main vehicles for cooperation include financial assistance, external debt and aid coordination, policy advice, surveillance and technical assistance.

82. The Fund continued to provide its own financial resources under its different facilities, but especially under the Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF)/Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF), to African countries in support of their structural adjustment programmes. As at the end of April 1993, there were 19 programmes in place in various African countries, including one stand-by arrangement; one arrangement under the extended Fund facility; three

arrangements under SAF and 14 under ESAF. Total Fund credit and loans outstanding to OAU member countries amounted to SDR 5.8 billion at end of 1992. The Fund, in its catalytic role, also continued to mobilize additional resources for the African countries, in the context of multilateral conferences on aid coordination (e.g. consultative group meetings and UNDP-sponsored round-table discussions), as well as debt rescheduling.

83. The Fund exercised its policy advice and surveillance functions through its regular consultations with OAU member States and by helping these countries to design adjustment programmes that could be supported by the Fund. It continued to collaborate actively with regional organizations in Africa. The Fund also continued to provide extensive technical assistance for the effective management of policy reforms in many areas, including public finance, monetary policy, debt management and exchange rate management, as well as in the design of social safety nets. It has also offered training, both at headquarters and in the field, in financial analysis, public finance and balance of payments.

S. Universal Postal Union

84. As in the past, cooperation between the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and OAU took place specifically in the field of technical assistance within the framework of the joint activities of UPU and the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU), an OAU specialized agency. The Cooperation Agreement concluded to that end enabled UPU and PAPU to coordinate their programmes and conduct joint technical assistance activities, which both parties financed. Between July 1992 and May 1993, a joint United Nations International Drug Control Programme UPU/PAPU project was implemented in the form of a postal security course for the English-speaking African countries.

85. The UPU also provided PAPU member States with substantial technical assistance covering activities financed out of UPU resources and under UNDP projects. These included missions by experts and/or consultants missions for, inter alia, operational activities, studies and organization of services; individual and group training fellowships; and supply of postal operational equipment.

86. As a result of the presence of two UPU regional advisers in the field, sustained support was provided for the postal administration of the English-speaking, French-speaking, Spanish-speaking and Portuguese-speaking African countries.

87. PAPU, as a Restricted Union within the meaning of article 8 of the UPU Constitution, backs the application of decisions by UPU bodies in its member States.

88. Under the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000), in its capacity as leader of the Postal Services Subsectoral Working Group, UPU organized a meeting of that Working Group at Berne, Switzerland, in October 1992, which was attended by PAPU, OAU and ECA. At that meeting, the postal projects being given priority during the first phase of the Decade were revised, and responsibility for seeking funding for the projects was shared out among the members of the Working Group (UPU, PAPU and OAU). The

projects cover improving mail security; establishing regional and subregional transit centres; setting up independent postal enterprises (revision of statutes and structures and reform of management); and establishing workshops for manufacturing postal equipment and materials.

89. UPU contributes towards implementation of the PAPU multi-year programme (1993-1996), particularly in the form of group training activities.

90. UPU is pursuing its cooperation with OAU and PAPU towards implementation of the objectives laid down in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and specified in the Protocol on Transport and Communications as regards the postal sector.

T. International Telecommunication Union

91. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has cooperated very closely with OAU on a variety of processes concerning the development of telecommunications on the African continent. This cooperation is expected to be formalized shortly through a cooperation agreement which is under preparation.

92. During 1992, ITU cooperated with OAU and other organizations in the implementation of the Regional African Satellite Communication System for the Development of Africa, and in activities of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000), which included the Pan-African Telecommunications Network project and its follow-up. The re-establishment and full manning of the ITU Regional Office for Africa at Addis Ababa during 1992 has now facilitated closer consultation between ITU and the OAU secretariat and its specialized agency responsible for telecommunications, the Pan-African Telecommunication Union (PATU).

U. World Intellectual Property Organization

93. In April 1992, discussions were held at Addis Ababa between the Secretary-General of OAU and officials of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) concerning, inter alia, the draft protocol on science and technology of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, following which WIPO submitted, at the request of OAU, inputs to (a) the draft terms of reference for the preparation of the protocol on science and technology; (b) the draft protocol on industry, prepared by UNIDO; and (c) the draft protocol on industry prepared by the OAU secretariat.

94. In June 1992, a WIPO official attended the fifty-sixth ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers, followed by the twenty-eighth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, both held at Dakar, during which a number of resolutions of direct interest to WIPO were adopted, namely, "the Campaign against the Piracy of Musical, Literary and Artistic Works" (CM/Res.1418 (LVI)); "the Application of biotechnologies" (CM/Res.1411 (LVI); "the Dakar Plan of Action for the Promotion of Cultural Industries: Factors of Development in Africa", with a specific reference to WIPO (CM/Res.1411 (LVI); and "Cooperation between OAU and the United Nations Organization" (CM/Res.1406 (LVI)) (see A/47/558, annex I).

95. In June 1993, WIPO officials met with the Secretary-General of OAU in Geneva, and discussed plans for the WIPO/OAU biannual Gold Medal Award ceremony which was to be organized during the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, convened at Cairo from 28 to 30 June 1993. The Secretary-General of OAU took that opportunity to sign the diploma to be awarded to the laureate of the 1993 WIPO/OAU Gold Medal.

96. Also in June 1993, a WIPO official held discussions in Geneva with an Assistant Secretary-General of OAU concerning the enhancement of cooperation between OAU and WIPO. It was agreed that the two organizations would prepare a draft programme of action which would be submitted to the Secretary-General of OAU and the Director-General of WIPO for approval prior to its implementation.

V. International Fund for Agricultural Development

97. The Assembly of Heads of State or Government of OAU, at its twenty-eighth session at Dakar in 1992, adopted a resolution on the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Second Phase (see A/47/558, annex I, CM/Res.1416 (LVI)). The resolution, inter alia, appealed to the international community of donors to contribute generously, on a voluntary basis, to the Second Phase of the Special Programme so that it could become effective as soon as possible.

98. An important element of development activities by IFAD in the region involves support for economic diversification among the rural poor. IFAD is supporting, with the Inter-American Committee for Agricultural Development, the Aga Khan Foundation and the World Bank, the Preconditions for Enterprise Development Projects for Sub-Saharan Africa, which is oriented to accommodating donor enterprise development strategies to the African social and cultural environment.

99. The Agricultural Management Training Programme for Africa has been one of the principal instruments in the improvement of capabilities with a direct bearing on the execution and environment of projects. This training programme for project and government staff, initiated in 1985 by IFAD in conjunction with the World Bank and AfDB, and now in its Fourth Tranche, has placed major emphasis on the integration of externally funded project activities into the activities and responsibilities of farmers.

100. In 1992, a second research grant was approved to finance Foreign Exploration of Natural Enemies of the Cassava Green Spider Mite in Africa by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. Through several major grants, IFAD has played a significant part in developing a regional technical capacity for the successful control of the cassava mealy bug in Africa.

101. IFAD has been engaged long-term in strengthening statistical analysis capabilities with respect to the impact of macro-economic policies (particularly structural adjustment programmes) upon the rural poor. IFAD provided the Smallholder Poverty Analysis Framework to the World Bank-led exercise on assessing the social impact of structural adjustment, which has been followed by collaboration with the World Bank in mounting regional training in an assessment of the impact of macro-economic policy.

102. IFAD is currently engaged in the project on Poverty Alleviation and Macroeconomic Reform in Africa jointly with UNDP, ILO and FAO in the use of basic computer modelling with social data to assess the impact of alternative policies, an exercise linked with a broader regional training scheme in the use of data for policy development.

103. The Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women was held under the auspices of IFAD in Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1973. Possible subregional cooperation in projects pertinent to the stipulation of the Declaration of French-speaking African countries have been identified. In southern Africa, a series of joint technical assistance activities between different countries have also been identified in collaboration with non-governmental organizations. A number of African countries have already taken concrete steps for the implementation of the Geneva Declaration. These steps include establishing national committees, mounting fund-raising campaigns to support activities for rural women and organizing national and regional workshops, conferences and other meetings of relevance to the advancement of rural women.

104. The Women and Development subgroup of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy is comprised of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA and IFAD and continues extensive inter-agency collaboration. A document on Women and Structural Adjustment was issued in 1992 as a joint effort. Support was given to the 1992 priority of improving gender-disaggregated data to advance gender situation analysis and monitoring systems.

III. COOPERATION IN OTHER AREAS

International Maritime Organization

105. Technical cooperation of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is aimed at developing the training, technical, legal and managerial capacities of developing countries to implement global standards of maritime safety, protection of the marine environment and related aspects of shipping and ports. Ongoing IMO projects in Africa include specialized training of seafarers and technical shore-based personnel; the organization of an African network of seminars on the facilitation of international maritime traffic; and human resources and institutional development in the Sub-Saharan transport and communications sector. IMO projects also provide assistance to African maritime training institutes and academies.

Notes

1/ General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

2/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I and vol. I/Corr.1, vol. II, vol. III and vol. III/Corr.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and Corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annexes I-III.

3/ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

4/ A/S-11/14, annex I.